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Groups sue Soviets for KAL downing

BY A WASHINGTON TIMES STAFF WRITER

Two anti-terrorism organizations founded by the late Rep. Lawrence P. McDonald, D-Ga., filed a \$100 million suit against the Soviet Union yesterday for his death in a South Korean airliner Soviet fighters shot down on Sept. 1.

The suit, filed in U.S. District Court in Chicago, charged the Soviet govern-

ment violated international conventions in attacking the unarmed civilian plane in which 269 people died.

The suit was filed by Western Goals and Western Goals Endowment Fund, which McDonald founded in 1979 to combat violence, terrorism and tyranny. McDonald was chairman and president of both organizations.

J. Curtis Herge of McLean, Va., gen-

eral counsel for the organizations, said he is co-counsel in the suit with John J. Kennelly of Chicago, an expert on aviation law who successfully prosecuted claims arising from the crash of an Air Florida plane in Washington in 1982.

"We are putting the same team together because we intend to use every available avenue in the judicial process to find — and hold accountable — those

responsible for this tragedy," Herge said.

Herge said he hopes a trial of the suit will turn up answers to many questions about the incident in which Soviet fighter planes trailed the airliner for 2½ hours before shooting it down.

Herge said he and Kennelly expect the cooperation of the State Department, the CIA and other agencies and "are prepared to demand it, if necessary," in order to learn the full truth about the disaster. — Ed Rogers